

Remarks

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-40 are pending. Claims 1, 4, 5, 9, and 19 are amended. Claims 33-40 are added.

There is support in the specification and original claims for the above amendment. New claims 33-40 are based on a combination of claim 1, and original claim 17. The Examiner has indicated that claim 17 would be allowable if written in independent form.

Additionally, Applicants note that claims 26-32 are allowed.

Issues under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3, 10-16, 18, and 22-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being obvious over WO 02/074217. This rejection is respectfully traversed. However, in view of the above amendment, this rejection is believed to be moot. Specifically, material from claim 4, free from this rejection, has been incorporated into claim 1. Thus, claim 1 (and the claims dependent therefrom) should be free from this rejection as well. Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being obvious over WO 02/074217 in view of Langley, US '697. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are respectfully requested. Claims 19-21 are dependent from claim 1. Claim 1 is free from this rejection and should be allowable as discussed above. Thus, claim 19-21 should be allowable.

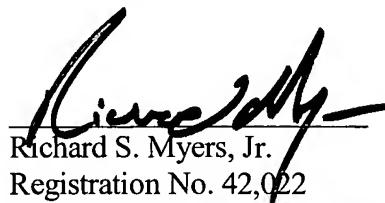
Extension of Time

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicants hereby petition for a two-month extension of time for filing a response to the outstanding Office Action. The extension of time fee of \$225.00 is attached.

You are authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with the filing of this application to Deposit Account 50-2752.

Finally, please contact the undersigned if there are any questions regarding this Amendment or the application in general. Additionally, should the Examiner believe that an interview will remove issues precluding allowance, Applicants representative will be happy to arrange one at the convenience of the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,



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